

*A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville*

## Town Square Use Permits Approved

The first phase of the new Town Center of Rockville, being called "Town Square," has taken major steps toward a spring groundbreaking as the Mayor and Council on March 15 unanimously approved use permits for the five blocks to be developed by RD Rockville, LLC. Rockville's Planning Commission had recommended approval to the plans on March 11.

WDG Architects, which was hired by RD Rockville to design the Phase I plans, made a detailed block-by-block presentation of the new downtown prior to gaining approval. Before giving approval, Mayor and Council attached more than 35 conditions that the developers agreed to meet.

On Feb. 25, the Mayor and Council approved a use permit for the public improvements and infrastructure that will affect the \$300 million development.

Phase I encompasses Town Center's central 15 acres bordered by Beall Avenue on the north; Middle Lane on the south; North Washington Street on the west and Maryland Route 355 on the east. Eventually Town Center will expand to cover more than 60 acres.

Rockville Town Square promises to have a unique look compared to most downtown redevelopments. Each building will have a distinctive appearance and differing amenities to make the area look like it developed over time. More than 30 building facades are planned. Many of their features were inspired by historic Rockville buildings.

Rockville Town Square will include a mix of retail, restaurant, cultural, entertainment, residential and office uses. It also will include the new Rockville Regional Library and a public square. Three public

parking garages, creating about 2000 spaces, will be built to support the development.

It is intended that groundbreaking will take place this spring and the first buildings will be open in 2006.

Prior to giving approval, the Mayor and Council made it known that they want to minimize the impact construction traffic will have on established

ing dock that will supply the new Magruder's grocery store and the look of the facades that will face out on portions of North Washington Street and Beall Avenue.

"The Mayor and Council must be vigilant about everything because the buck does stop with us," said Councilmember Anne Robbins. "We all have to compromise. We will not be get-

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**GLIMPSE OF TOWN CENTER'S FUTURE ...** WDG Architects presented this image of the east side of Maryland Avenue at a worksession with the Planning Commission and the Mayor and Council last month. A clock tower is the central feature of the block with a pedestrian archway below and to the left. All of the new building designs show unique, historically-inspired facades with residential units at the top and retail spaces lining the street. Public art also will be included.

neighborhoods, particularly between I-270 and the Town Square site. They also expressed concerns about the hours of operation of the load-

ing everything we want, but we are moving in the right direction."

Town Center information is available on the City's Web

site at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) and from Rockville's Department of Community Planning and Development Services at City Hall at 240-314-8200. **RR**

## East Rockville Finally Has a New Plan

The East Rockville community now has a blueprint for the neighborhood's future.

The Mayor and Council on March 8 unanimously adopted the East Rockville Neighborhood Plan that will provide a clear vision for the community and be a guide for development of the 33-acre Stonestreet Avenue industrial corridor and the adjoining east portion of the Rockville Metro station—and how that development will relate to preservation of the nearby quiet residential neighborhood.

A consultant will be hired to help prepare an implementation plan to be followed. It is intended for the plan to be completed by the end of the year. Mayor Larry Giammo said he hoped to begin implementation of the plan almost immediately thereafter.

"This is something we need to do more of," Councilmember John Hall, Jr. said to many community members who have worked with City staff and members of the East Rockville business community to formulate the plan. "We have set the marker for how we address change and dynamism in neighborhoods."

Jim Wasilak of Rockville's Department of Community Planning and Development Services has worked with the community for almost two years to develop the plan that recommends retention of the single-family residential portion of the neighborhood.

The plan also recommends that the industrial corridor be redeveloped as a mixed-use, main street-style corridor focused on the arts. At the urging of Councilmember

Susan Hoffmann, the plan will allow for live-work units that could be residences and studios for artists.

"It does not take much to stand out on any of those street corners and imagine what could be," said Giammo.

Councilmember Bob Dorsey was among those who wanted to see the City move quickly to implement the plan.

"I am eager to get a shovel in the ground," he said, "so we don't lose the momentum." **RR**

*"We have set the marker for how we address change and dynamism in neighborhoods."*

— Councilmember John Hall, Jr.



**ROCKVILLE DAY IN ANNAPOLIS...** "Help us build a new Town Center" was the City's message for state legislators in Annapolis on Feb. 26. from Mayor Larry Giammo and Councilmembers Bob Dorsey, Anne Robbins and Susan Hoffmann. Above, Councilmembers Hoffmann (center) and Dorsey (right) greet Delegate William Bronrott of Montgomery County's District 16 as he enters the lunchtime reception.

## April's Best of Rockville

### April 5-9

#### Spring Break with Nature

Kids will uncover nature's surprises during Spring Break at the Croydon Creek Nature Center. Register early for hands-on activities, hikes and trips. For more information read the calendar on pg. 7 or call 240-314-8770.

### April 10

#### Eggstravaganza and Kite Fest

Enjoy spring family fun at the annual Eggstravaganza and Rockville Family Kite Fest on Saturday, April 10, from 10 a.m.-12 noon at Civic Center Park. Meet Peter Cottontail and go fly a kite! Free. 240-314-5022.



### April 17

#### National Philharmonic Piano Recital

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$23, \$17, \$11. For information, call 301-762-8580.

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**The atmosphere of Dawson Farm Park will be recharged with the opening of the characteristic granary shelter.**

In a few months, one of the newest park shelters in Rockville will do more than host picnics and outdoor fun. It also will provide a community history lesson.

The shelter is in the historical Dawson Farm Park, located next to Copperstone Court off of Ritchie Parkway. It is constructed as a “ghost structure” of the former Dawson Farm Granary, which was demolished in 1977.

The granary was a large frame structure that included corn cribs, grain storage areas, a tack room, root cellar, blacksmith area and sheds for farming equipment. It had two main openings through which wagons stacked high with hay could pass or be parked for shelter.

The building was a key part of the Dawson Farm, which was purchased by Lawrence A. Dawson in 1840 upon his settlement in Rockville to study law and serve in the Maryland House of Delegates.

The Dawsons became a prominent family in Montgomery County whose members played important roles in local politics and commerce for several generations. By the early 1900s, the family’s farm had expanded to include approximately 500 acres as well as two dwellings, a stable, a barn, outbuildings and the granary. It extended from Rockville Pike to where I-270 is now located and included the land between Edmonston Drive and Monroe Street.

Four generations of

Dawsons would reside there, however they were not trained to be farmers, but lawyers, businessmen or held government appointments. Many of them oversaw operations of the farm in addition to their other duties.

Over time, the land was sectioned off for other uses: the Dawsons donated parcels of the farm for civic purposes, a large portion was sold for development in the 1950s and the City acquired part of the farm property in 1980.

Dawson descendants lived in the main house (built in 1912) until the property was sold. That house is now part of the Dawson Farm Park, which consists of approximately six acres.

The Dawson family called the area Rocky Glen for its massive outcroppings of white quartzite rock. Today that original stone is one important part of the park shelter, which is made to look like it is standing on its original stone piers.

The building also features construction methods and materials similar to those originally used. For example, the park shelter is lined with stone at its base, instead of using gutters to manage storm water.

Historical information plaques, as well as a display case with items such as horseshoes and plow pieces uncovered during construction, also will be located at the shelter.

Construction is expected to be completed this spring.

For more information about the park shelter contact Mark Kibiloski at 240-314-8704. [RR](#)

# Street Names: More Than a Game

Those following the evolution of plans for Rockville’s Town Center likely have noticed a new street in the middle of the Phase I area tentatively labeled “Market Street.” But when Phase I opens in 2006, that street will have a different name that is yet to be determined.

Why the change?

“Market Street” was a working name the planners have used. But in recent years, the emergency services in Montgomery County have requested that new streets not have the same name as other streets in the county to prevent confusion. Market Street already exists in several areas in Montgomery County.

Ultimately, Rockville’s Planning Commission will have the authority to name the new street in Rockville Town Center. The commission likely will have many suggestions come its way.

But what is the best way to choose a street name? One approach is to begin by researching the top 20 most common street names in America.

Many people might guess “First Street” would be the

most common. However, a story in the December edition of the Maryland Municipal League’s monthly publication cites research by the U.S. Census Bureau stating the most popular street name in the U.S. is actually “2nd” (or Second) Street. “First” comes in third.

Although many cities and towns have a set of “numbered streets” at their core, it is common for the first street to be named to suggest the center of the town, such as Main Street, or named in honor of a historic figure, such as George Washington. This is how it is possible to have fewer “Firsts” than “Seconds.”

Rockville has seven streets that are considered among the top 20 most common streets in America. They are “First,” “Park,” “Pine,” “Maple,” “Cedar,” “Washington” and “Lake.”

And now it may have one more, or a completely original name. Stay tuned to learn more about the newest street in Rockville and the many benefits it will offer Rockville’s citizens!

If you would like to submit an idea send an e-mail to [creitz@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:creitz@rockvillemd.gov) [RR](#)

## Top 20 Street Names in the U.S.

Shown with the number of times they have been designated by various jurisdictions:

1. Second (10,866)
2. Third (10,131)
3. First (9,898)
4. Fourth (9,190)
5. Park (8,926)
6. Fifth (8,186)
7. Main (7,644)
8. Sixth (7,283)
9. Oak (6,946)
10. Seventh (6,377)
11. Pine (6,170)
12. Maple (6,103)
13. Cedar (5,644)
14. Eighth (5,524)
15. Elm (5,233)
16. View (5,202)
17. Washington (4,974)
18. Ninth (4,908)
19. Lake (4,901)
20. Hill (4,877)

*Credit: Maryland Municipal League*

## For City’s Canines (and Owners): Creating Rockville’s First Dog Park



Rockville is already home to a skate park, nature center and golf course. And soon it may add its first official dog park to the list.

A segment of the future 28-acre King Farm Park may become the dog park’s home.

But why does Rockville need a dog park?

There are an estimated 4,500 licensed dog owners that would benefit from an open area to exercise and socialize with their pets. The park may consist of an enclosed area one-half to one acre in size where residents could allow their dogs to run and play off-leash. The park also would minimize environmental and health concerns for non-dog owners by providing recep-

tacles and peer encouragement to properly dispose of waste.

For more than a year, the Rockville Dog Owners Group (R-DOG) comprised of residents selected from a broad range of areas across the city, has been working on the project.

“As the City continues to grow, it’s imperative we designate space for our pets, and their owners,” said Carl Peterson, chairman of R-DOG. “A dog park in Rockville is a win-win situation for both dog owners and non-owners.”

R-DOG has reviewed a feasibility study for the park, researched similar parks across the country and in nearby cities like Gaithersburg. The group met with residents who

live nearby potential sites in Rockville.

Last October, R-DOG presented its findings to the Mayor and Council regarding the park’s amenities, management and location. The Mayor and Council suggested review of the King Farm park site to see if and how a space for man’s best friend could work.

In the future, R-DOG hopes to also be involved in the park’s construction and serve as a consulting body until the park is well established. It may assist in enforcing rules, help to plan special events, establish a Web site and discuss any issues that might arise.

For more information about the contact, Mark Kibiloski at 240-314-8704. [RR](#)

## A New Science Center in Rockville?

The City has begun to investigate the feasibility of building a science center or complex potentially in the North Stonestreet Avenue corridor in East Rockville.

The idea originates from members of the Rockville Consortium for Science.

“Montgomery County is home to many premiere science and technology organizations,” said Bob Ekman, president of the Consortium. “Yet there are few facilities for families and students to experience hands-on science.”

The group proposed that a

facility dedicated to community science programs would help educate Rockville’s students and adults about science. It also would encourage volunteerism, while attracting support from local businesses particularly in the I-270 corridor.

The City is working with a task force of consortium members, citizens and representatives from local colleges and universities, science-related businesses and other government agencies to conduct the study.

Proposals are being solicited from firms who wish to take on the science center

feasibility study and one will be selected this spring.



In addition to assessing benefits to the overall community, the firm will identify and evaluate opportunities for strategic partnerships, including joint ventures with other local public, private or non-profit organizations such as the new science center at Montgomery College. Funding and revenue options will also be explored as part of the study.

Call 240-314-8602 for more information. [RR](#)

## Peerless Rockville Looks At Housing and Urbanism

### MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING, 1850-2004:

Tuesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m. at the Americana Centre (4 Monroe Street). Forum on high density living in Rockville. The City has developed in trends, from people living above Mom and Pop’s shop to condominium living. The trend will soon return as Rockville develops high density apartments and condos in Town Center.

### NEW URBANISM, 1990-2004:

Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. at King Farm Community Center. Grant Epstein of Torti Gallas and Partners speaks on innovative community building in Rockville, followed by comments from King Farm and Falls Grove residents. Co-sponsored by Peerless Rockville and King Farm Citizens Assembly. For information: [www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org)



## Businesses Status

Listed below is the relocation status, as of March 23, of businesses that were part of the Federal Realty-owned shopping center on North Washington Street that will be closed to pave way for the new Rockville Town Center.

### Relocated

- The Bargain Box, 398 Hungerford Dr.
- Bio Medical Applications, 7524 Standish Place
- Magruder's Farmer's Market (Original store will remain until demolition)  
New store: College Plaza, 15108 Frederick Rd.
- Q.L. Barbers, 199 East Montgomery Ave.
- Sir Speedy, 10 North Washington St.
- Tiger Beer and Wine, 303 N. Washington St.
- Treasure Chest Fine Jewelry, now trading as: Sandy Allison Diamonds and Fine Jewelry, 9845 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Va.
- Tuesday Morning, Congressional Shopping Center
- UPS Store, 451 Hungerford Drive
- Zi Pani, 1129 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E. Washington D.C.

### Planned Relocations

- Chevy Chase Bank, (temp. location) 41 Maryland Avenue
- CVS (temp. location), 8 West Middle Ln.
- Great Harvest Bread, Federal Plaza
- Guiseppe's Fine Pizza, 199 East Montgomery Ave.
- Hair, Inc., 8 West Middle Ln.
- Rockville Arts Place, 9300 Gaither Rd, Gaithersburg
- Vignola Pasta Gourmet, 1022-1024 Rockville Pike
- The Waygoose, 4848 Bethesda Ave.

### Others

- Center Cleaners continues to look for a suitable location.
- GNC and Starbucks likely will close.
- Hiro Sushi and Made By You have closed.

## Rockville Students RISE-ing to the Top

### 5 Years Later, Program's Original Students Set Their Sights on College Education

As pre-teens, Nia Smith, Lyndon Jones and Steven Weedon became pioneers. They were three of the first students to participate in a new program for Rockville's youth called "Reaching Individual Self-Empowerment" (RISE).

Sponsored by Rockville's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, RISE did not simply seek to help "at-risk" children, it sought to help "children with potential."

Five years later, Smith, Jones and Weedon are successful high school seniors, work part-time and have their sights set on college. They will celebrate their success, and the fact that the program has become a state-wide model for excellence, at a five-year-anniversary banquet at Lincoln Park Community Center on May 8.

Since its founding, RISE has served more than 165 middle and high school students. The program helps build kids' self-esteem and independence through community service projects, basic job skills training, conflict resolution and more. Unlike other programs, it does not stop at the end of a Saturday morning project.



**Original RISE members (left to right) Lyndon Jones, Steven Weedon, and Nia Smith, together with RISE founder Art Billings, will celebrate the program's five years of success at an awards ceremony on May 8.**

RISE members can be seen scouring littered parking lots, raking leaves, clearing cemeteries and helping senior citizens in return for checks of \$25 to \$35 every two weeks. However, when they join the group, the students make a commitment to succeed in every part of their lives.

Responsibility, time management and teamwork skills were three of the most important things 18-year-old Jones took

away from the program.

"We had to be at the center by 8 a.m. on Saturday," he said. "We also had to keep our rooms clean and work well together."

Weedon, now 18, recalls the excitement of receiving a paycheck when he joined RISE at 13.

"RISE taught me how to get ready to be an adult while having fun working with my friends," he said.

Today, he is a star athlete at

Richard Montgomery High and hopes to play college football.

Smith, a senior at Rockville High, learned the value of assisting others at the early age of 12. "Helping them made me feel better too because I was doing something for someone else," she said.

Today she participates in The Finest! theatre group and plans to pursue a career in early childhood education.

Art Billings, Rockville's Youth, Family and Community Specialist II and founder of the program, said kids need to know they have the power to make choices in their lives.

"After high school, kids need to go to college or technical school or join the military. If not, they tend to go backward," he said.

"We need more help from businesses," Billings said. "We need them to give juniors and seniors part-time jobs so they can learn what is expected of them in the world of work. This is really pennies for prevention. What we save the City, what we do for the community and what we help the kids avoid are worth much more than \$500 per child, per year."

For more information, or to make a donation call 240 314-8313. **RR**

## Two-Wheel Your Way To the Office for Bike to Work Day

Tired of being stuck in D.C. metro area traffic? Frustrated with rising gas prices and parking fees? Why not experience the benefits of taking two wheels to work instead of four?

On Friday, May 7, join thousands of bike commuters across the country for Bike to Work Day 2004 — a celebration to encourage commuters to try this clean, healthy and affordable mode of transportation and support those who already choose to bike to work. Along the way, enjoy snacks, entertainment, dynamic speakers and chances to win bicycles and other prizes.

Events will take place at 18 different "pit stop" locations around the region — including two in Rockville.

For the first time, the City is pleased to host cyclists at the Falls Grove Community Multi-modal Transportation Center, located at the intersection of Falls Grove Boule-



vard and Falls Grove Drive. The Red Brick Courthouse, in Rockville's Town Center at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and East Montgomery Avenue will remain a stop from last year's event.

To register, log on to [www.waba.com](http://www.waba.com) and follow the Bike to Work Day link. Those who sign-up by April 30 will receive a free Bike to Work Day t-shirt (while supplies last.) And each registrant will be entered into a drawing for one of three bicycles including a Burley Runabout commuter bike valued at \$1,100.

To volunteer or for more information, call 240-314-8626 or e-mail [bikeways@rockville.md.gov](mailto:bikeways@rockville.md.gov). **RR**

## Character Counts!<sup>SM</sup> For Rockville's Youngsters

Elementary-aged youth who demonstrate trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship will be rewarded this April through the "Character Counts!" program.

The City has been an active supporter of the program, which is based on those six "pillars," and in recent years has worked to entice children to participate with incentives.

The first 50 youngsters who complete six good deeds that reflect the pillars, such as resolving a conflict peacefully, and return a completed flyer to the City's Bikeway Coordi-

nator by Tuesday, March 30, each will get a refurbished bicycle and safety supplies. They also will receive a certificate from the Mayor and Council.

Each student in Rockville's elementary schools should have

received a copy of the "Character Counts!" flier. Additional fliers can be picked up at the front desk of City Hall located on 111 Maryland Avenue.

"The program not only gets bicycles into the hands of those who wouldn't otherwise have them, but it also allows chil-

dren to learn terrific character qualities that will benefit them the rest of their lives," said Helen Vettori, Character Counts! coordinator. "Every child deserves to have the independence and ability to play and be social with bicycles."

But the project does more than reach kids without bikes.

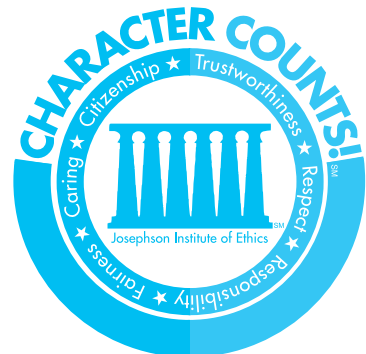
Members of the Rockville Boy Scout Troop 1450 are volunteering to refurbish the donated bicycles. The group, led by Michael Brooks, 16, will

*"The program not only gets bicycles into the hands of those who wouldn't otherwise have them, but it also allows children to learn terrific character qualities that will benefit them the rest of their lives."*

— Helen Vettori, Character Counts! Coordinator.



**Volunteers Michael Brooks (right) and Nathan Deck inspect a donated bike.**



complete such repairs as lubricating chains, cleaning and polishing.

"It's great to be able to help out the community and do an Eagle Scout project," said Brooks. **RR**



## Too “Mulch” of a Good Thing: Not-So-Good for Rockville’s Trees

Landscapers and arborists have long known the benefits of using organic mulch, such as shredded bark chips, around the base of trees. When used correctly, mulch prevents erosion, reduces lawnmower and weed trimmer damage, suppresses weeds and more. Placing mulch around trees as a part of spring landscaping is usually a good idea, except when done the wrong way.

Rockville City Forester, Susan Nolde, advises residents that too much can be deadly to your tree.

Mulch “volcanoes”—mounds of mulch piled high up against the trunks of trees—is one of the most common problems in Rockville.

Two major troubles can arise when more than two to four inches of mulch (two inches for wet soils, four inches

in dry areas) is applied to the base of a tree. Nolde said that just like people, tree roots need oxygen. Deep layers of mulch can actually prevent air from getting down to the soil and suffocate the tree’s roots.

Even worse than restricting air movement to the roots, is the tendency of a tree’s roots to grow up into the mulch and around the tree trunk into what are called “girdling roots.” As the trunk and the root increase in size they push against each other until the root eventually strangles the trunk. While trees may live years with girdling roots they usually, decline in health prematurely. In the worst cases, the tree becomes hazardous due to the reduction in trunk diameter where the root is constricting the trunk.

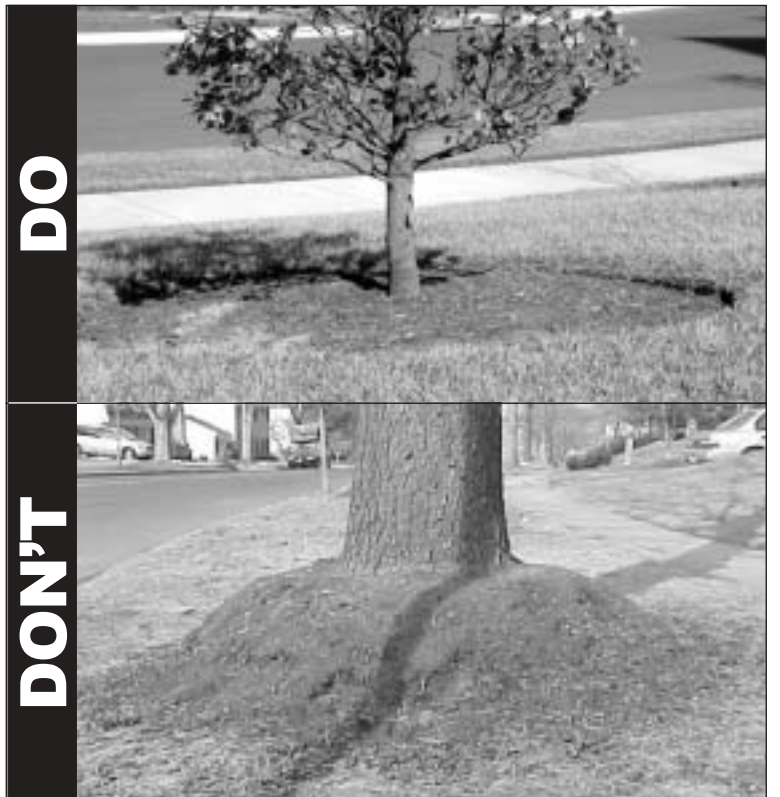
Excess mulch around a tree’s trunk can also rot the

bark at the base of the tree and provide habitat for critters such as mice, which may chew the tree’s bark.

Nolde greatly appreciates the efforts of residents who take the time to mulch City street trees. She offers two caveats for tree care givers: It is better not to mulch at all, than to mulch incorrectly, and “wider is better.” The latter philosophy advises that rather than create a high vertical mulch “volcano,” be sure to spread the mulch out to the length of the tree branches at a depth of two-to-four inches.

“The bottom line is try and mimic what you see in a forested area,” said Nolde. “You do not see mulch volcanoes in the woods!”

For more information on better tree care, call the City’s Forester at 240-314-8700. [RR](#)




**WATCH THAT MULCH...** The top photo shows the correct way to spread mulch. Be sure to use only two to four inches and try to spread it out to the end of the tree’s branches. In the lower photo, mulch has been piled high against the tree’s trunk into a “volcano,” which can deprive the tree’s roots of oxygen and cause them to rise above ground.

## New Upcoming Events at Twinbrook Rec Center *Spring Family Portraits and a Mother’s Day Princess Tea Party*

Twinbrook Community Recreation Center will host two new events for citizens this spring. The Twinbrook Recreation Center is located at 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

 Families are invited to don their best spring attire for professional portraits by Larry Glatt on April 4 and 18 from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sessions are by appointment only and are \$90 for City residents, \$110 for everyone else. The package includes two 8x10 photos, two 5x7 photos, eight 4x5 photos and 48 wallet size photos. To make a reservation

call 240-314-8830 or log on to [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov), click on Rock Enroll and sign-up for course No. 10527 (April 4) or No.10753 (April 18).

 Calling all princesses! Children ages 3 through 10 years with their mothers, grandmothers or another special woman in their life are invited to celebrate Mother’s Day on Sunday, May 9 from 2-4 p.m. with a special Princess Tea Party. The afternoon also will include crafts and games. The cost is \$5 for residents/\$7 for nonresidents. Register through Rock Enroll, course No. 10525. [RR](#)



## Home Improvement Grants Available

Looking to make some home improvements? You may be eligible for a City grant.

Low- and moderate-income Rockville homeowners can apply for grants and loans to make necessary upgrades to their homes through Rockville’s Home Improvement Program.

This includes upgrades to electrical, plumbing and home heating systems.

Funds for the program are provided by Housing and Urban Development through the U.S. Community Development Block Grant Program and are administered by the City’s Department of Community Planning and Development Services.

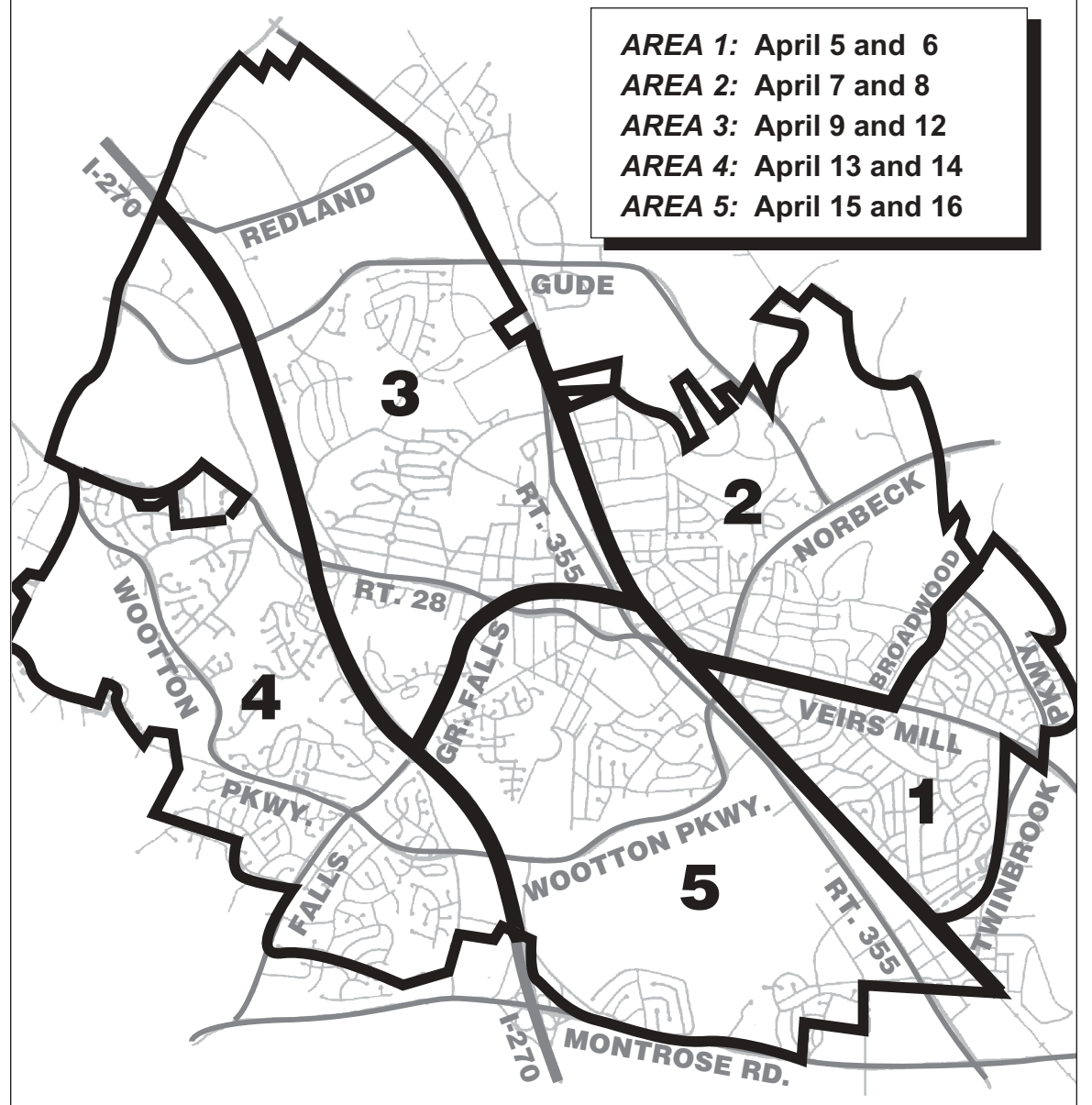
Call 240-314-8208 for more information, including eligibility requirements and loan limits. [RR](#)

## Spring Leaf Collection to Run April 5-16 *For those who rake, City will help rid the piles.*

The day before the scheduled collection, rake leaves into the nearest gutter or immediately adjacent to the pavement,

where no curb or gutter exist. Only loose leaves will be collected, so be sure to remove all limbs, rocks and other heavy objects from the pile.

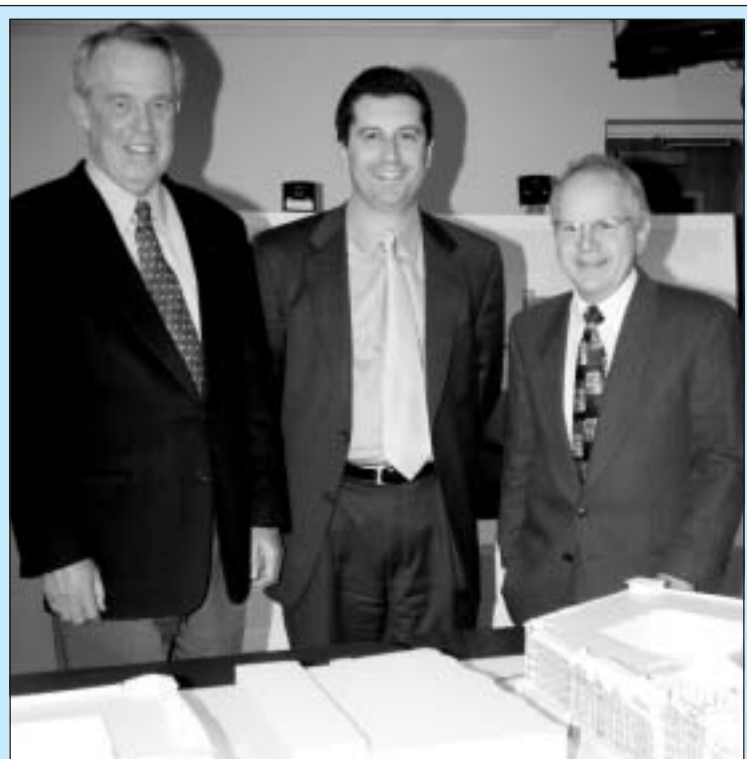
Do not place leaves in plastic bags, as they will not be collected. For more information call 240-314-8566.





# INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

A Glimpse into the  
City Government at Work



**A LOOK AT TOWN CENTER'S FUTURE ...** Mayor Larry Giammo (center) and RD Rockville, LLC partners John Jaeger (left) and Scott Ross look over a model of Town Square after a work session between the Mayor and Council and Planning Commission last month. RD Rockville is the private developer of the first phase of Rockville's new Town Center.

## Mayor and Council Adopt Goals for Term

Rockville's Mayor and Council have unanimously adopted five goals and almost three dozen "expected outcomes" as part of a strategic plan that will create a new town center, make the City safer and ensure that continuing Citywide development improves Rockville's overall quality of life.

Mayor Larry Giammo and Councilmembers Bob Dorsey, John Hall, Jr., Susan Hoffmann and Anne Robbins each were re-elected to two-year terms in November 2003. Following their election in 2001, they set one of most ambitious two-year plans of any Mayor and Council in City history.

The new strategic plan for their current term identifies new goals, refines direction concerning previous achievements and gives a clear definition to objectives they want the City to work toward.

The five goals established by the Mayor and Council are:

- Create a Vibrant Town Center
  - Ensure New Development Citywide Enhances Rockville's Quality of Life
  - Improve Pedestrian Traffic Safety
  - Strengthen Rockville's Neighborhoods and Sense of Community
  - Enhance the City Government's Performance
- Town Center remains the top

area of focus, but as spring groundbreaking approaches, the Mayor and Council's new goals reflect their intent to manage Rockville's growth in a way that positively benefits neighborhoods surrounding new developments and people who will use the new buildings.

Much of Rockville's future success depends upon management of transportation issues, and this is reflected throughout the new goals.

In their previous term, pedestrian improvements were among the Mayor and Council's most notable accomplishments. The new goals seek to continue and extend existing programs—such as adding time counters at crosswalks that inform pedestrians about how many seconds they have to safely cross streets. They also want to study several problematic intersections and address new safety options.

Ensuring housing choices for people of all ages and incomes is part of the plan to strengthen neighborhoods, including expansion of the City's Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program.

The goals also stress delivering a high level of service to residents, with several measures identified to ensure those services are available at a good value to taxpayers. **RR**

## FY2005 Budget Dates

- April 12:** Proposed budget presented to Mayor and Council
- April 19:** Budget Public Hearing
- May 3:** Budget Public Hearing
- May 11:** Budget worksession
- May 17:** Budget worksession
- June 1:** Optional budget worksession
- June 14:** Budget adoption

## City Manager Search Keeps Moving Ahead

The Mayor and Council have taken important steps toward choosing a new city manager.

After choosing Slavin Management Consultants from Norcross, Ga., to head the national search, the Mayor and Council set a path that would lead to identifying top candidates to be interviewed. The Mayor and Council are looking for input from a wide range of stakeholders, and intend to meet with a group of citizens in April to help further determine what qualities would be most important in Rockville's next city manager.

Since Jan. 12, Catherine Tuck Parrish, Rockville's assistant city manager, has served as the act-

ing city manager. W. Mark Pentz resigned in January to become city manager of Chandler, Ariz. Pentz had served as city manager for more than five years.

It is expected the process to choose a new city manager will take a total of six to nine months.

In March, Slavin met with members of the Mayor and Council, with the City's senior staff and with other City employees to gather input about the position and formulate a plan for the search.

After the Mayor and Council define the profile the City would like to see in candidates, Slavin's firm will begin recruiting and screening candidates. **RR**

## City Rides Toward New Bikeway Master Plan Update

Less than a decade ago, the City of Rockville embarked on a plan that would lead the City to developing an accessible bicycle route system that would become a model for urban communities. Six years since the Rockville Bikeway Master Plan was adopted, the City has undergone major development growth and the bike system has grown accordingly.

Now it is time to update the Bikeway Master Plan.

At a public hearing on March 15, the Mayor and Council heard from citizens, consultants and staff about the proposed updated plan and what it would mean for Rockville. A major element of the bikeway system will be the bike and pedestrian bridge that will be built parallel to Route 28 and will cross over Route I-270. The City has received a TEA-21 grant for \$3.2 million to help pay for that construction, which is intended to begin later this year.

Betsy Thompson, Rockville's recreation program development coordinator, said that the City has aggressively pursued state and federal grants to support construction and education programs associated with the bicycle plans.

City staff told the Mayor and Council that "adoption of

the Bikeway Master Plan Update will provide the blueprint for the future of the bicycle network and includes policies regarding environmental protection, as well as recommendations for adequate parking, safety education programs, redevelopment and integration into the transportation system."

One of the major elements of the more than 40 miles of trails and lanes that encompass the plan is the Millennium Trail, which is a path of about 10 miles in length linking various parts of the City by bike.

"It is hard to believe that when the [Bikeway Master Plan] was first published, the Millennium Trail was just an idea," said Jennifer Toole, a bicycle consultant who has worked with the City in developing the plan. "Now it is almost finished."

The City has worked extensively with the public in the drafting of the original plan and with the update.

Among the recommendations of the updated plan are for developers to be required to include bikeway facilities in new projects; creation of a user-friendly bikeway map; creation of a "Safe Routes to School" program; and creation of a distinctive bikeway signage system. **RR**



Mayor  
Larry Giammo



Councilmember  
Robert E. (Bob) Dorsey



Councilmember  
John F. Hall, Jr.



Councilmember  
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember  
Anne M. Robbins

## Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk's Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, Councilmembers scheduled for April are:

- **April 12** Bob Dorsey
- **April 19** John Hall, Jr.
- **April 26** Susan Hoffmann

## Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel, and are available on streaming video at: [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). All meetings are subject to change.

- **April 12 (Mon.)** General Session/ Budget Presentation, 7 p.m.
- **April 19 (Mon.)** Public Hearing/ Worksession Cultural Arts Building Design, 7 p.m.
- **April 26 (Mon.)** General Session, 7 p.m.

## Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Animal Matters Board (one)
- Human Rights Commission (one)
- Landlord/Tenant (one/tenant)
- Rec and Parks Advisory (one)
- Traffic and Transportation (one)

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.

**Please note:** The Commission on the Environment is seeking volunteer (non-appointed) members for its Network on the Environment. Anyone interested should call 240-314-8212 or e-mail [pamelarowe@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:pamelarowe@rockvillemd.gov).



## Maryland's Dinosaur Featured At Science Day on April 18

"Astrodon johnstoni," Maryland's first known dinosaur, will be one of the many fascinating topics of discussion at the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Rockville Science Day on Sunday, April 18, on the Rockville campus of Montgomery College from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Parking and admission are free.

Educational fun for the entire family is the constant theme of the Rockville Consortium for Science, which works throughout the year to produce the science extravaganza. The group invites local scientists, historians, engineers and technology experts to bring their work to life.

Activities will take place in the campus gymnasium, the science west building and the arena theatre. Handling animals, hands-on science and

technology activities for people of all ages will be part of the afternoon.

Science Day also offers the opportunity to get to know the planet Mars, attempt physics challenges and be amazed by chemistry experiments. Ham radio operators will share their hobby and robots will be roaming the building. Astronomers and meteorologists will be available to help explain the world around us.

Astrodon johnstoni, which was designated the Maryland State Dinosaur in 1998 by the Maryland General Assembly, was discovered more than 140 years ago by Philip Tyson, then the state agricultural chemist. He discovered two teeth in an open-pit iron mine in Prince George's County. It is estimated that Astrodon (which

means "star tooth") johnstoni would have stood more than 30 feet tall and would have been at least 50 to 60 feet in length.

At Rockville Science Day, dinosaur authority Peter Kranz will have displays, demonstrations and a performance concerning dinosaurs.

Rockville Science Day is sponsored by the Rockville Consortium for Science, Inc., the City of Rockville and Montgomery College-Rockville. The Rockville Consortium for Science is a non-profit, educational foundation that presents this event annually to increase interest in science and technology—especially among young people.

To learn more about Rockville Science Day, call 301-279-0625, e-mail [shemarsh@erols.com](mailto:shemarsh@erols.com) or visit [www.rockvillescience.org](http://www.rockvillescience.org). **RR**



**A CHANGE AHEAD ...** A new street festival atmosphere will replace the carnival of years past as construction plans move forward for the heart of Rockville.

## Building the New Hometown Holidays

Thousands of people flock to Rockville for the family-friendly Hometown Holidays celebration each Memorial Day weekend. This year, youngsters and adults will find a new assortment, location and schedule of activities while the City begins construction of the first phase of the new Town Center.

Major changes include the creation of a new arts-oriented street festival atmosphere and the elimination of the carnival, laser show and Sunday night activities.

What will not change is the continuation of major entertainment on the main stage. In April, the Mayor and Council will approve contracts for the headline acts on Saturday evening, May 29.

Annual Hometown Holidays attendees on May 29-30 will note several new elements to the events this year as the City prepares to add an exciting mix of retail, restaurant, cultural, entertainment, residential and office spaces in the heart of its Town Center.

The activities will no longer primarily take place in the Middle Lane parking lot. The surrounding streets, Maryland Ave., East Montgomery Ave., and Middle Lane, will now contain a street festival look and feel.

Two new main activities of interest to people of all ages will be the Rockville Arts Festival and Carnival of the Arts on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Arts Festival, produced by Howard Alan Events, will include more than 100 local and regional artisans showcasing and selling their colorful creativity.

While adults peruse the artwork, youngsters can be entertained by amusing street musicians and can demonstrate their own creativity at the arts and crafts activities at the Carnival of the Arts produced by Rockville Arts Place.

Highlights of Saturday evening's celebration begin at 4 p.m. and include activities such as a bungee trampoline, climbing wall, and moon bounce; the Taste of Rockville made up of flavorful eats from nearly 30 local restaurants; block-buster live musical entertainment and a sparkling fire works show.

While these exciting events will replace the past carnival, laser show and Sunday night activities, two favorite annual events will remain. They are the Ride for Rockville bicycle festival beginning at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 30, and the 60th Annual Memorial Day Parade beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 31.

"As the City of Rockville moves forward with Town Center improvements, Hometown Holidays also will progress to accommodate the new construction while still providing fun for the whole family," said Mike Henry, City of Rockville Special Events Coordinator. "Everyone will find something to enjoy throughout the weekend, while we honor those who have given their lives for our country's freedom and celebrate the coming of the summer season."

For more information, visit the City's Web site at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call the Special Events Hotline at 240-314-5022. **RR**

## Eggstravaganza and Family Kite Fest Saturday, April 10 at Civic Center Park

Enjoy the fun at the annual Spring Eggstravaganza and Family Kite Fest on April 10, at 10 a.m. at Civic Center Park. The events end at 12 noon, so be sure to bring a picnic lunch.

Boys and girls ages 1-9 are invited to take part in the Eggstravaganza, while youngsters of all ages can experience high-flying fun at the sixth annual Family Kite Fest. Meet Peter Cottontail,



**EGG-CELLENT SPRING FUN!** After a long morning of hunting eggs at a previous Eggstravaganza, this child takes a break.

make arts and crafts and bring a basket to hunt for eggs at the Eggstravaganza.

Families can bring their own kite or purchase a new one at the Kite Festival. The event will include a free kite flying area, face painting and a moon bounce. There even will be a kite hospital to mend damaged kites.

For more information visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call the special events hotline at 240-314-5022. **RR**

## Espectacular Fiesta de Primavera de los Huevos Festival de las Cometas el 10 de abril

Goce de la diversión anual en la Espectacular Fiesta de Primavera de los Huevos y en el Festival de las Cometas (Eggstravaganza and Family Kite Fest) el 10 de abril a las 10 de la mañana en el Parque del Centro Cívico. Las actividades concluyen al mediodía, así que no se olvide de traer un almuerzo para el picnic.

Los niños y niñas de 1 a 9 años de edad están invitados a participar en la

Eggstravaganza, mientras que los niños de todas las edades se divertirán y participarán de un espectáculo de alto vuelo en el 6 Festival Anual de las Cometas. Conozca a Peter Cottontail, haga artesanías y traiga una cesta para recoger los huevos que descubra en la Eggstravaganza.

Las familias también pueden traer su propia cometa o adquirir una nueva en el Festival de la Cometa. El acontecimiento incluirá una

zona libre para hacer volar las cometas, pintado de caras y una cápsula lunar para brincar. Inclusive, habrá un hospital para cometas para ayudar a remendar las cometas dañadas.

Para más información, visite <http://www.rockvillemd.gov> o llame a la línea telefónica especial de asistencia para acontecimientos especiales: 240-314-5022. **RR**

— Translated by Victoria Imas-Duchovny

## Adventures Await for All Tastes

A half-dozen exciting adventures are planned by Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks between April and July, including an Antiques and History tour of Frederick on April 24; the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Walk on May 2; Chesapeake Skipjack Sail on May 8; and Kayak

the Piscataway on May 22.

For details including pricing information read the Spring Recreation Guide online or available at the Recreation Desk at City Hall.

Register through Rock Enroll on [www.rockvillemd.org](http://www.rockvillemd.org) or call 301-762-4282. For more information call 240-314-8641. **RR**



## In Brief

### Help Available for April Tax Deadline

Free income tax preparation assistance is available for low-to-moderate income residents and senior citizens. The service is provided by the City of Rockville, with the members of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

Appointments are mandatory and are scheduled from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays through April 13 at 32 Courthouse Sq. in downtown Rockville. For more information or to make an appointment, call 240-314-8310. Homebound residents also will receive assistance.

CALL **240-314-8310** FOR INFO

### Sign-up Ongoing for Summer Camps

Help kids make the most of their summer vacation through Rockville summer camps and classes. Popular classes fill-up early, so register now for some of the best programs in the area.

Summer Camp Guides may be picked up at Rockville City Hall or other City facilities.

Camps begin on June 21 and operate for three two-week sessions, and one one-

week session in early August.

There are sports of all sorts, nature explorations, and even a ‘way off Broadway’ group to entice toddler’s through teen’s curiosities. Learn new basketball or ballet skills, play with clay or join the biologist boot camp, to name just a few.

Registration is easy and can be done in several different ways: online via RockEnroll, by fax, by mail or drop-off at the Recreation Counter located on the third floor of City Hall.

CALL **240-314-8620** FOR INFO

### Summer Jobs Open

The Department of Recreation and Parks is currently accepting applications for energetic, fun-long, creative and enthusiastic camp leaders and directors. Most programs begin on June 21, with training prior to that. Salaries are competitive.

CALL **240-314-5037** FOR INFO

### Recongize A Good Rockville Neighbor

Applications are currently being accepted for the second annual Rockville “Good Neighbor Awards.”

Rockville residents who, after July of 2003, made a significant contribution to the community, a neighbor or to the City in general may be eli-

gible. To nominate an adult or youth for an award, or for more information, contact Dwayne Jenkins.

CALL **240-314-8343** FOR INFO

### Free Rabies Clinic

Rockville residents will have the opportunity to vaccinate their pets for free, or at a reduced cost, during Rabies Clinics on April 18 at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter (14645 Rothgeb Dr.) from 10-11:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Police, Animal Services Division.

- Free rabies vaccinations for dogs owned by Rockville residents (\$4 fee charged for cats and ferrets of Rockville residents and out-of-county pets).
- Pet licenses for the City will be available.
- Dogs must be leashed; cats and ferrets must be in carriers or otherwise contained.

CALL **240-314-8930** FOR INFO

### Talk It Out, Work It Out

The City’s free mediation program, sponsored by the Human Rights Commission, can help citizens resolve many types of conflicts, including those between neighbors or residents and businesses.

CALL **240-314-8316** FOR INFO



**SCREECH, SQUEAL ... CRASH!** *Richard Montgomery High School students will experience the terrifying sights and sounds of a replicated drunk-driving accident on April 22 as shown in this photo from a previous event. The “Every 15 Minutes” program is coordinated by the City.*

## “Every 15 Minutes” To Hit Home With Area Students

As prom season approaches — a time when many teens choose to abuse alcohol — Richard Montgomery High School students will learn the effects of drunk-driving through a staged, but very realistic car accident on the school property as part of the “Every 15 Minutes” program.

Beginning the morning of April 22 through the following afternoon, students will explore in painstaking detail what happens when a fellow classmate loses his or her life because someone was driving while intoxicated.

More than 30 students are fully participating in the pro-

gram, either as accident victims, as members of the “living dead” and, for the first time, as part of the organizing committee and on the police force.

Based on a national model, the program was created in the 1990s when every 15 minutes someone died in the U.S. from an alcohol-related accident. Today, through educational measures such as “Every 15 Minutes,” the figure is closer to every 30 minutes.

For more information about “Every 15 Minutes” contact Diane Wilkins, Program Coordinator/City Victim Advocate, at 240-314-8917. **RR**

## CITY

**10** **Spring Eggstravaganza and Rockville Family Kite Fest.** 10 a.m.-12 noon. Rockville Civic Center Park. Free.

**17** **Off Leash Dog Testing.** Tests to see if City dogs can be walked without a leash. Call to register as date is subject to change. Middle Lane Parking Lot. 240-314-8930.

**17** **Third Annual Twinbrook Creek Cleanup.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 240-314-8212.

**18** **Science Day.** Rockville campus of Montgomery College from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Parking and admission are free.

**26** **Environmental Excellence Awards Ceremony.** 7 p.m. City Hall. 240-314-8212.

## ARTS

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville’s Civic Center Park. Arts Hotline: 240-314-5006.

**4-May1** **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: A Matter of Scale.** Opening reception: 3-5 p.m. April 4. 240-314-8682.

**Mar.28-Apr.27** **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Exhibit.** See *FOCUS on the Arts* Insert. Opening Reception: 1-4 p.m., Sunday, March 28. Artist Talk: 7:30 p.m., April 15. Guided Gallery Tour: 10 a.m., April 16. 240-314-8682.

**17** **National Philharmonic Piano Recital.** 8 p.m. Tickets: \$23, \$17, \$11 For information, call 301-762-8580.

**18** **Rockville Concert Band Spring Concert.** 3 p.m. Free; donations accepted. No ticket required. For information, call 240-314-8681.

**29,30 May 1,7, 8,14,15**

**Rockville Little Theatre “Run for Your Wife”.** 8 p.m. May 9, 16 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$12 General Admission. For information, call 301-340-1417.

## april

## calendar of events

RES. = Residents • NR. = Non Residents • MEM. = Member • NM. = Non Member

**16** **Rockville Chorus Spring Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Free; donations accepted. No ticket required. For information, call 240-314-8682.

## NATURE CENTER

All programs are at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Register online at [www.rockvillemc.gov](http://www.rockvillemc.gov) or call 240-314-8770.

**2** **Nature at Night.** 7-8 p.m. All Ages. \$2 RES/\$3 NR.

**3** **Stump the Naturalist: Wildflowers.** Have a wildflower you can’t identify? Stump the City’s Naturalist. 1:30-3 p.m. All ages. Free.

## Spring Break Adventures

**5** **Cherry Blossoms Bonanza.** Travel downtown for fun natural history facts about these beautiful blossoms. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 7-13. \$30 RES/\$35 NR.

**6** **The Secret World.** Visit the National Cryptologic Museum to get a secret look at the people and devices behind the cryptic codes. Then look at some of the ways plants and animals use code and camouflage at the Nature Center. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Ages 7 - 13 \$30 RES/\$35 NR.

**7** **Swamp Tromp.** Explore a local swamp and meet some carnivorous plants up close. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 7-13 \$30 RES/\$35 NR

**8** **Historic Carousels and Horses.** Visit Dentzel Carousel at Glen Echo Park, then make a stuffed horse at Build-a-Bear. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 7-13. \$35 RES/\$40 NR.

**9** **Reptile (and Amphibian) Ramble.** Field trip to special places in search of frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles and snakes. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ages 7-13 \$30 RES/\$35 NR.

**7** **Tiny Tot Walk — Egg-citing Eggs!** 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Ages 1 1/2 - 2. \$3 RES/\$4 NR.

**7** **Tyke Hike — Egg-citing Eggs!** Search for eggs and see what hatches from them. 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-5. \$3 RES/\$4 NR.

**14** **Frog and Toad.** Listen to stories about Frog and Toad, meet live frogs and toads, make a froggy craft and hike outside to look for amphibians. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Ages 3-6 \$3 RES/\$4 NR.

**16** **Morning Bird Walk.** Bring your binoculars for a walk in the woods to see spring migrants. 7-9 a.m. Ages 18+. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

**17** **Science of Road Kill.** Dive into the world of forensic science. 9-11 a.m. Ages 12+. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

**21** **Wildflower Walk.** 10-11:30 a.m. Ages 18+. \$3 RES/\$4 NR.

**22** **Who Laid an Egg?** Examine all the animals that lay eggs, then search for eggs around the nature center. 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-5. \$3 RES/\$4 NR.

**30** **Arbor Day.** Decorate a planter and plant a small pine tree to take home in honor of Arbor Day. 10-11 a.m. Ages 4+. \$2 RES/\$3 NR.

## SENIORS

All programs are at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., unless otherwise noted. Phone: 240-314-8800.

**1-Sept.9** **Active For Life.** 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Free.

**6,13** **Computer Essentials.** 10-12 noon. \$15 MEM/ \$19 NM.

**13, May 4** **Beginning Watercolor.** 1-3 p.m. Register by April 9. \$40 MEM/\$45 NM.

**14,26** **Digital Photography Basics.** 1-3 p.m. \$25 MEM/\$32 NM.

**14** **April Birthday and Anniversary Party.** 1:30-3 p.m. Free.

**14,19,21,2,28-May17** **Spanish for Beginners II.** 1-3 p.m. \$40 MEM/\$45 NM.

**15** **Are you Getting Enough Sleep?** 1-2 p.m. Free.

**15,20,22,27,29-May18** **Advanced Spanish.** 1-3 p.m. \$40 MEM/\$45 NM.

**15-May27** **Watercolor-Advanced.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Register by April 2, \$45 MEM/\$55 NM.

**19,21** **Stained Glass Stepping Stone.** 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Register by April 8. \$8 MEM/\$10 NM.

**20** **Financial Strategies.** 10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Free.

**20** **Painting on Glass.** 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Register by April 6. \$8 MEM/\$10 NM.

**20** **Food and Medication Connection.** 1-2 p.m. Free.

**21** **Classical Music.** Name Your Favorite Tune. Register by April 14. Free.

**23** **Learning for a Lifetime: Elderhostel.** 11 am - 12 noon. Register by April 16. Free.

**27** **Glass Fusing Bracelet.** 12:15 - 2:15 p.m. Register by April 5. \$25 MEM/\$31 NM.

**28** **Funeral Planning.** 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Free.

**28-May26** **Hand Chime Choir.** 1-1:45 p.m. Register by April 19. Free.

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

**3** **Board of Appeals,** 9:30 a.m.

**13** **Commission on the Environment,** 7:30 p.m.

**13** **Human Services Advisory Commission,** 7:30 p.m. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center Annex

**14** **Planning Commission,** 7 p.m.

**14** **Cultural Arts Commission,** 7 p.m.

**15** **Historic District Commission,** 7 p.m.

**15** **Rockville Sister City Corporation,** 7:30 p.m.

**15** **Senior Citizens Commission,** 10 a.m., Senior Center

**20** **Rockville Seniors, Inc.,** 1 p.m. Senior Center

**20** **Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Town Center Action Team,** 7 p.m. Red Brick Courthouse

**21** **Rockville Housing Enterprises,** 6:30 p.m., 14 Moore Dr.

**22** **Recreation and Parks Advisory Board,** 7 p.m., Lincoln Park Community Center

**27** **Traffic and Transportation Commission,** 7:30 p.m.

**28** **Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Board Meeting,** 7:30 a.m. 401 N. Washington St. (call 301-315-8096)

**28** **Planning Commission,** 7 p.m.

**28** **Human Rights Commission,** 7:30 p.m.

*Note: This month’s Mayor and Council meeting schedule is listed on page 5, along with Drop-In times.*



# Rockville Up Close: Commission on the Environment

Since April 22, 1970, Earth Day has been an annual event for people around the world to celebrate the earth and our responsibility toward it.

Rockville is doing its part locally to continue the Earth Day spirit through the City's Commission on the Environment.

The Commission was created in 2002 to advise the Mayor and Council on environmental policies and programs including ways to best manage natural resources, protect waterways, use energy more efficiently and prevent pollution. Current projects include crating a new volunteer group, Network for the Environment, and an Environmental Excellence Awards program.

"The environment is incredibly complex," said Carl Henn, Environment Commission member. "No nine-member panel can have the time or expertise to properly address all the environmental issues that



**A HAWK PARADISE...** *This red shouldered hawk is resting on one of the City's forest preserve signs. The habitat restoration program helps turn fields into forests to attract wildlife and improve water quality.*

confront us in Rockville."

Local individuals and businesses that have expertise in areas that relate to the environment and who are interested in volunteering to assist with special projects are asked to

join the commission's new Network for the Environment by contacting Pamela Rowe, at 240-314-8212 or by e-mail at [pamelarowe@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:pamelarowe@rockvillemd.gov).

In addition, the Commission seeks to create public aware-

ness and recognize achievement in environmental progress in Rockville through its new City of Rockville Environmental Excellence Awards. There are four award categories: individual stewardship; corporate and institutional leadership/pollution prevention/municipal operations; outstanding project achievement in green building technology/design; and outstanding environmental education and academic achievement. City residents, community groups, schools, and city, county, and state municipal operations that operate within the City are eligible.

Nominations will be accepted until April 9 and an awards ceremony will be held at the Mayor and Council General Session on April 26. For more information, including to request a nomination form, contact Pamela Rowe at the City's Department of Community Planning and Development. [RR](#)

## Rockville Police Seek National Re-Accreditation

The City of Rockville Police Department will culminate a three-year voluntary process of gaining re-accreditation from the prestigious Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) on April 24-28 when a CALEA assessment team will visit and observe the department.

An important part of the assessment process will come on Sunday, April 25, when members of the community will be invited to offer opinions and ask questions about the department. The public information meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Chambers at City Hall.

Police Chief Terry N. Treschuk said a team of assessors

will examine all aspects of the department's policies and procedures, management, operations

and support services. The public information meeting will help with its analysis.

The Rockville City Police Department is among less than one percent of the police forces in the United States that has received the accreditation distinction from

CALEA. The department must comply with 445 standards in order to maintain accredited status, which it first received since 1994.

"The City of Rockville Police Department is proud to open our doors for review of our high-quality services," said

*"The Rockville City Police Department is among less than one percent of the police forces in the United States that has received the accreditation distinction from CALEA."*

Treschuk. "The men and women of the Rockville Police Department have continuously distinguished themselves as leaders in providing the highest levels of service possible to the community, and welcome the re-

view of our daily activities and standards of operation. We look forward to another positive review of our agency."

The public information session, at which department employees also can comment, is considered an important aspect of the assessment. Anyone who would like to provide comments to the assessment team, but cannot attend the session, can provide comments by calling 240-314-8999 on Sunday, April 25, between the hours of 1-4 p.m.

Copies of the accreditation standards are available at the City Police Department from Accreditation Program Manager Lee Potter. Anyone wishing to offer written comments can address them to: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA), 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030. [RR](#)

## Volunteer Time: Hospice



The last part of life's journey should be as satisfying and comfortable as possible. However, many people can not afford special care. That is when the non-profit Montgomery Hospice steps in.

More than 150 area volunteers ranging in age from their 20's to their 80's work at various locations beside hospice professionals to help make terminally ill people's last months as comfortable and fulfilling as possible.

Montgomery Hospice, whose headquarters are located on Piccard Drive in Rockville, helps match volunteers with assignments that include flexible hours and the opportunity to help both children and adults. Volunteers serve as companions and helpers in nursing homes, private residences and at Casey House, the area's only all-hospice hospital.

"Hospice families are so grateful for the respite we provide and they always find ways to make me feel useful," said Lee Ann Blank, a Rockville resident.

In addition to assisting patients, volunteers help in Montgomery Hospice's offices. Others organize fundraising events that ensure Montgomery Hospice can continue to serve patients regardless of their ability to pay for services.

Hospice volunteers receive a thorough training to become effective team members, including a 24-hour orientation, to acquaint them with the practical and philosophical basics of comfort care and help them build skills to increase their confidence.

They often find their service positively impacts others, as well as themselves.

"Anyone thinking about hospice volunteering should try it," said Terry Stewart, a Rockville volunteer whose mother had hospice care. "The training is excellent and the service you will provide is incredibly rewarding and necessary."

To volunteer, contact the Montgomery Hospice at 301-921-4400 or visit its Web site [www.montgomeryhospice.org](http://www.montgomeryhospice.org). [RR](#)

TRC 11	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL APRIL PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 Midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾
6 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 am	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
7 am	Permit Process	Biking in Rockville	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Biking in Rockville	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Permit Process	Permit Process
7:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
8 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
8:30 am	Mayor & Council ▾	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council ▾
9 am	▾	Diversity in the City ▾	Rockville & Council of Govts.	Rockville Concert Band Children's Concert ▾	Permit Process	Diversity in the City ▾	▾
9:30 am	▾	▾	Permit Process	▾	Biking in Rockville	▾	▾
10 am	▾	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Biking in Rockville	Diversity in the City ▾	Rockville City Government	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▾
10:30 am	▾	Biking in Rockville	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▾	Rockville & Council of Govts.	Biking in Rockville	▾
11 am	Cityline	Rockville City Government	Rockville City Government	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Permit Process	Cityline
11:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
12:30 pm	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
1 pm until meeting ends	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾
4 pm	Diversity in the City ▾	▾	Rockville Concert Band Children's Concert ▾	Rockville & the I.C.C. ▾	▾	Diversity in the City ▾	▾
4:30 pm	▾	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▾	▾	Permit Process	▾	Permit Process
5 pm	Rockville & Council of Govts.	Permit Process	Biking in Rockville	Diversity in the City ▾	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Rockville City Government	Biking in Rockville
5:30 pm	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Rockville & Council of Govts.	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▾	Biking in Rockville	Rockville & Council of Govts.	Exploring Rockville's Web Site
6 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
7 pm	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Diversity in the City ▾	Planning Commission ▾	Rockville City Government	Mayor & Council ▾	Rockville Concert Band Children's Concert ▾
7:30 pm	▾	▾	▾	▾	Biking in Rockville	▾	▾
8 pm	▾	▾	Rockville & Council of Govts.	▾	Diversity in the City ▾	▾	Exploring Rockville's Web Site
8:30 pm	▾	▾	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▾	▾	▾	Diversity in the City ▾
9 pm	▾	▾	Permit Process	▾	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▾	▾
9:30 pm	▾	▾	Cityline	▾	Cityline	▾	Cityline
10 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
10:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
11 pm	Diversity in the City ▾	Rockville City Government	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Diversity in the City ▾	Permit Process	Biking in Rockville	Permit Process
11:30 pm	▾	Rockville & Council of Govts.	Biking in Rockville	▾	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Permit Process	Biking in Rockville



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**Councilmembers**  
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